

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on November 15, 2006, was received and its contents carefully reviewed. By the above amendments, Applicants canceled claims 7-31. Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for consideration of claims 1, 4, and 6 and for indicating that these claims are allowed. In view of the amendments above, claims 1, 4, and 6 are currently pending and are believed to be in condition for allowance. With respect, Applicants request reconsideration of the present application in light of the above amendment and the following remarks.

A. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

1. Rejection of Claims 7, 10-14, 16-26, 30, and 31 as Unpatentable over Bednarek in view of Tobin.

Claims 7, 10-14, 16-26, and 30-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Bednarek U.S. Patent Number 6,965,868 (the '868 patent) in view of Tobin U.S. Patent Number 6,141,666 (the '666 patent) as indicated beginning on page 2 of the Office Action mailed November 15, 2006. In view of the amendments above and the comments below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

With this Amendment, Applicants canceled claims 7, 10-14, 16-26, 30, and 31. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the '868 patent in view of the '666 patent is moot. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

2. Rejection of Claims 8 and 27 as Unpatentable over Bednarek in view of Tobin and in further view of Mangipudi et al.

Claims 8 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Bednarek U.S. Patent Number 6,965,868 (the '868 patent) in view of Tobin U.S. Patent Number 6,141,666 (the '666 patent) and in further view of Mangipudi et al. U.S. Patent Number 7,058,704 (the '704 patent) as indicated beginning on page 8 of the Office Action mailed November 15, 2006. In view of the amendments above and the comments below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

With this Amendment, Applicants canceled claims 8 and 27. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the '868 patent in view of the '666 patent and in further view of the '704 patent is moot. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

3. Rejection of Claims 9, 15, 28, and 29 as Unpatentable over Bednarek in view of Tobin and in further view of Cupps et al.

Claims 9, 15, 28, and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Bednarek U.S. Patent Number 6,965,868 (the '868 patent) in view of Tobin U.S. Patent Number 6,141,666 (the '666 patent) and in further view of Cupps et al. U.S. Patent Number 5,991,739 (the '739 patent) as indicated beginning on page 9 of the Office Action mailed November 15, 2006. In view of the amendments above and the comments below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

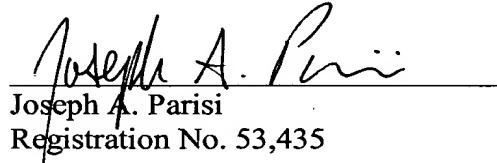
With this Amendment, Applicants canceled claims 9, 15, 28, and 29. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over the '868 patent in view of the '666 patent and in further view of the '739 patent is moot. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

B. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments, remarks, and the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 4, and 6 are allowed, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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